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ABSTRACT

Selected for this listing of children's books are fiction and non-fiction books which add to an understanding of ecology, broadly considered here as the study of the interrelationships of organisms to each other and their environment. General ecology, natural resources, man and his environment, evolution and adaptation, appreciation, survival, biographies, picture books, and various fictional books comprise the topic headings. Each entry indicates author, title, publisher, price, and suggested grade level accompanied by a comprehensive annotation. Following the more than 100 notations is a sampling of materials for adult reading. (BL)

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Children's Ecology Books

A note on the Preparation of this Bibliography: Mrs. Martha Lussenhop, the compiler of this bibliography, brings to her effort important qualifications: she holds a Master's degree in zoology, is a qualified elementary school teacher, and has a good background in children's literature. For this list, Mrs. Lussenhop selected fiction and non-fiction books which add to an understanding of ecology, broadly considered here as the study of the interrelationships of organisms to each other and their environment. Most of the titles are in the CCBC collection. For a critical overview of the literature in this field, one may refer to Mrs. Lussenhop's essay "Ecology Books for Children" in the CCBC Circular for May, 1971. The special lettering for this publication was done by Mr. Ray Lussenhop.

General Ecology

Ayer, Margaret. Animals of Southeast Asia. Illus. St. Martin's, 1970. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

This unusual selection describes the sea and land animals of Southeast Asia, their physical environment, and the ways in which the literature, art, religions, and customs of the peoples reflect their concern for the animal life. Because the war in Vietnam has altered the habitats of many animals, some may live on only in such cultural forms.

Bendick, Jeanne. A Place to Live. Illus. Parents' Magazine, 1970. $3.95. Gr. 1-3.

A simple clear text with comic-type illustrations which takes off from the young reader's familiarity with his neighborhood to introduce the concept of community with respect to other living things. The author explains the terms "producers and consumers," "environment," and "climate" from the standpoint of the child's own experiences. She asks questions which urge the reader to relate his life needs to those of animals and plants. By concluding the book with some big "ifs," the author suggests certain grim situations are very possible but not inevitable.

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Brandhorst, Carl T. and Robert Sylwester. The Tale of Whitefoot. Illus. by Grambs Miller. Simon & Schuster, 1968. $3.50. Gr. 3-7.

A story of the decomposition of a white-footed mouse who dies some time after giving birth to five little ones. Soil organisms and micro-organisms participate in the breaking down of Whitefoot's body, deriving energy and protein-building materials for their own maintenance. Whitefoot also lives on in the structure of grass and other plants, in the grasshopper who nibbled the grass, and in the mouse who consumed the grasshopper. So, in a non-gruesome way, two biologists depict the cycle of life, death and rebirth. The exquisite illustrations, fine line drawings in black and white, convey the inseparability of the mouse from her organic and inorganic surroundings.

Buff, Mary and Conrad. Elf Owl. Illus. by Conrad Buff. Viking, 1958. $3.50. Gr. 2-5.

The life of desert plants and animals is told in cadenced prose and beautifully illustrated in shades of brown. Members of the desert community share a need for water and, depending on the season, they find it or do not find it in the water hole below the home of Elf Owl in the giant cactus. Readers can learn, without being told explicitly, why cacti and porcupine have spines and quills, and how deer, wolf, fox, rabbits, rats, roadrunners, and owls manage to survive in the dry desert.

Busch, Phyllis S. Once There Was a Tree: The Story of the Tree, a Changing Home for Plants and Animals. Photographs by Arline Strong. World, 1968. $4.50. Gr. K-3.

A photographic essay describing "how a living tree becomes a log, and how its accompanying varieties of plants and animals interact with each other and with the environment." Young readers explore the life in, on, under, and around a tree, including birds, insects, lichen, and fungi. Some of these harm and some help the tree. But even as it decays, falls, and becomes a log, the tree provides shelter for many animals, and when it becomes part of the soil, it provides food for the growth of a new tree. The author and photographer also collaborated on a fine book with a very similar format and purpose -- Puddles and Ponds: Living Things in Watery Places.

Dobrin, Arnold. Marshes and Marsh Life. Illus. Coward, 1969. $3.86. Gr. 3-5.

In this beautifully illustrated book, discussion of blackbirds, cattails, turtles, muskrats, snakes, frogs, and marsh hawks is fully integrated, so conveying to the reader the complex web formed by the interrelationships between animals, plants, and their environment. The author points out one function of wetlands which is too often overlooked, --that of preventing adjacent areas from being flooded or destroyed by wind.

Eckert, Allan W. Wild Season. Illus. by Karl E. Karalus. Little, 1967. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A quiet but intense in-depth depiction of the drama taking place during the month of May among wildlife in and around a lake near the Wisconsin-Illinois border. The author states the theme as he describes Oak Lake in his prologue: "No creature here is not in large measure dependent upon other creatures of its own or other species for survival; and no creature here does not give of itself --even if ultimately it be by death -- to the continuance of the whole natural scheme of things." Each chapter focuses on the life of one predator on one day in May, and by the end of the next chapter he becomes the prey of another creature. An excellent book to read aloud and to use as a source of material for a mural showing the links making up a food chain or web.

Fisher, Aileen. Summer of Little Rain. Illus. by Gloria Stevens. Nelson, 1951. $2.95. Gr. 5-9.

A dramatic but realistic account of how a beaver family and a pine squirrel family survive one summer when faced with unfamiliar circumstances brought on by an autumn forest fire upstream from the pond. While keeping the reader in suspense, the author conveys the complex interdependency between beavers and deciduous forests, pine squirrels and coniferous forests. The reader learns why lodgepole pines manage to sprout and thrive when other pines do not, and also information about the daily and seasonal behavior, food habits, and enemies of the beaver and pine squirrel.

George, Jean. The Hole in the Tree. Illus. Dutton, 1957. $3.75. Gr. K-3.

Not less than eighteen species of beetles, bees, ants, birds, and mammals made their home in the apple tree, one replacing the other. Each occupant made the hole a little larger to fit herself and her offspring. Not a one became a permanent occupant, and even the boy Paul had to abandon his claim.

George, Jean Craighead. The Thirteen Moons Series. Crowell, published from 1967 - 1970. $3.75. Gr. 3-6.

A series of thirteen books, each describing a different animal species, an important event in its life during a particular month of the year in a certain habitat. Many other living things which the animal encounters, or eats, are also described, indicating the interrelationships between the organism and its environment. The thirteen "moon books" are about alligators, bears, chickarees, deer, fox pups, gray wolves, moles, monarch butterflies, mountain lions, owls, salamanders, wild pigs, and winter birds. Each book is about sixty pages and is illustrated by a different artist. The text consists of short, clear sentences, and while containing a great deal of information, reflects the author's wish to cultivate an appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

Hirsch, S. Carl. The Living Community: A Venture into Ecology. Illus. by William Steinel. Viking, 1966. $3.75. Gr. 7 - up.

This is one of the few books bringing out the contemplative aspects of ecology. The author considers the basic elements of the science, including evolution and adaptation, and gives illustrative examples. His allusions to appropriate quotations by such writers as Henry Thoreau, Lewis Carroll, Daniel Defoe, Robert Burns, and William Shakespeare make the book especially readable and also suggest that ecological ideas are not new. Man pervades the lucid text but is viewed realistically as one who has made mistakes, recognized some of them and now, as the most intelligent of creatures, has the responsibility to make the earth a fit place to live.

Hoover, Helen. Animals at My Doorstep. Illus. by Symeon Shimin. Parents' Magazine, 1966. $3.21. Gr. K-3.

The wild creatures surrounding the author's home in the forest become her friends, and by observing them quietly, she learns that "everything that grows and lives is important to all other living things." The reader learns how animals, birds, insects, and plants are interdependent, how their populations are ecologically balanced, and how many are camouflaged as an adaptation to their environments. The illustrations are realistic and in vivid colors.

Howell, Ruth Rea. A Crack in the Pavement. Photographs by Arline Strong. Atheneum, 1970. $3.50. PreS - Gr. 2.

A photographic essay calling young children's attention to the living things in their everyday environment of the city: grass dandelions, and ants in the cracks of a sidewalk; pigeons and sparrows nesting on window sills and under eaves of apartment buildings; robins, squirrels, inchworms, aphids, ladybugs, and spiders in the park. The author and photographer collaborated on an earlier book of similar format, Everything Changes, which directs young children's attention to the seasonal changes of plants and animals in their own schoolyard and city park.

Hutchins, Ross E. Little Chief of the Mountains. Illus. by Jerome P. Connolly. Rand McNally, 1970. $3.95. Gr. 3-5.

Only those who hike up mountains to the rock slides near timberline are likely to hear the high-pitched cry of the coney, and only those who strain their eyes can spot these elusive, rabbit-like critters. Hutchins did visit their domains on the slopes of Grand Teton and wrote this story of a family there. He contrasts the coney's wintering habits with those of the neighboring marmot and bear, in this way illuminating the species' autumn ritual of harvesting hay for the winter food supply. The two-color drawings capture the coney's charming expression and posture.

Hylander, Clarence. Wildlife Communities: From the Tundra to the Tropics in North America. Houghton, 1965. $5.00. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A very comprehensive treatment of ecology for high school readers, presenting "the role of environment in determining the appearance, living habits, and distribution of the plants and animals that make up our wildlife heritage." The first part considers the concepts of ecology, adaptation, and community, and the second part describes six biomes in North America. Numerous diagrams, photographs, maps, and charts amplify the text.

Kane, Henry B. Four Seasons in the Woods. Knopf, 1968. $3.50. Gr. K - 3.

A very gentle book for young readers which conveys the author's deep awareness of his natural environment. He describes hibernation, migration, and protective coloration as they concur with the four seasons. The concise text is accompanied by photographs and line drawings of plants and animals. Other very appealing books by this author are the nature studies Tale of a Meadow, Tale of a Pond, and Tale of a Wood for older children and adults.

May, Julian. The Big Island. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Follett, 1968. $3.95. Gr. K-3.

A simplified version of the predator-prey equilibrium which was eventually established between wolves and moose on Isle Royale. Until the wolves came to the island and fed on the old and sick moose, the moose population grew too large for the limited food supply on the island. As a result, many starved. The illustrations, in subdued browns, greens, and greys, have strong texture and the animals portrayed appear very much alive.

Miles, Miska. Apricot ABC. Illus. by Peter Parnall. Atlantic-Little, 1969. $3.95. Gr. K-3.

An alphabet book in verse which introduces very small children to the community of plants and animals living close to and under the earth's surface. Crickets, dragonflies, earwigs, katydids, and titmice crawl or flutter into and under dillweed, jasmine, and oleander. On one summer day only the fallen apricot remains still. A hen who seems all feet puts the tiny meadow creatures in a tizzy and they all seek cover. The hen finds the apricot but consumes not all of it --leaving the pit to become a new apricot tree. The illustrations, in color, are stunning and offer many unusual details for discussion.

Milne, Lorus and Margery. The Phoenix Forest. Illus. by Elinor Van Ingen. Atheneum, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 6.

A book both moving and informative, focusing on a forest community and its slow regeneration after a great fire (analogizing this with the rebirth of the legendary Phoenix bird). The authors explain how nothing in such a community is wasted --everything, living or dead, providing energy for some other animal, plant, or microorganism, the nutrients circulating in endless cycles. The description of the fire is terrifying (an ancient oak tree is struck by lightning and everything in or on it is electrocuted), but from this climax, readers learn how the immediate devastating effects of the fire are within a year transformed: pioneer plants which did not have a chance to grow when dominated by larger hardwood trees proliferate on the burned area and supply food and cover for returning wildlife.

Morrow, Betty. See Up the Mountain. Illus. by Winifred Lubell. Harper, 1958. $3.95. Gr. 3 - 6.

The author leads her readers on a hike up a high mountain, noting the startling changes in habitat from one zone to the next. Each zone is characterized by a particular community of plants and animals which have been able to adapt to climatic conditions at that altitude. The trip upwards from hot to cold temperatures parallels one we would all experience if traveling from the equator to the arctic.

Nickelsburg, Joan. Ecology: Habitats, Niches, and Food Chains. Illus. by Joan Drescher. Lippincott, 1969. $4.50. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A clearly written introduction to the principles of ecology which aims "to describe a number of habitats and the organisms living in them, some of their adaptations for survival, and ... the effect these organisms have upon their environment and upon one another." Along with habitats, niches, and food chains, the concepts of biomes, ecological pyramids, and plant succession are explained and illustrated with examples from regions in the United States. Photographs, two diagrams, a bibliography, and an index accompany the straightforward text.

Pringle, Laurence. From Field to Forest: How Plants and Animals Change the Land. Illus. World, 1970. $4.50. Gr. K - 3.

A photographic essay "planned to encourage the very young child to experience his environment aesthetically as well as intellectually" (from foreword). Plant succession is portrayed as a very slow parade of plants, beginning with bare soil and ending with an oak-hickory forest. The lucid text also describes different types of seeds, the ways they are transported, and the various creatures which are attracted to the changing habitat.

Raskin, Edith. The Pyramid of Living Things. Illus. by Joseph Cellini. McGraw, 1967. $4.50. Gr. 7 - Adult.

Forming the organization of this selection are eight climatic zones of the world, ranging from the Arctic and Antarctic Tundra to the Tropical Rainforest. Each biome is introduced with a diagrammatic pyramid of living things representing the food web, productivity, and biomass characterizing the ecological community. The text describes the climate and vegetation of each biome and also portrays the activity patterns of wildlife. Pointing to human beings as the ultimate predators, the author asserts that we must become conservers if we are to survive at all.

Rublowsky, John. Nature in the City. Basic Books, 1967. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A very welcome book which draws the reader's attention to the myriad of living creatures which have adapted to the concrete and asphalt environment of the city. The city, the author points out, is not an unnatural environment but only a new one to which organisms must adapt if they are to survive; and the natural history and ecological relationships among the surviving are no less intriguing than those in the wilderness. Although the text is in small print, it is clear and lively. Eight photographs, a bibliography and an index increase the usefulness of this book.

Russell, Helen Rose. City Critters. Illus. by Marcia Erickson. Hawthorn, 1969. $3.95. Gr. 4-7.

A very informative book which traces the changes that have occurred between the time America was wilderness and the present time of extensive urban development. The author describes the natural history of sparrows, pigeons, rats, and insects which have so successfully adapted to city life, and also conveys the complex interrelationships which occur between the city critters.

Selsam, Millicent. Birth of a Forest. Illus. by Barbara Wolff. Harper, 1964. $2.95. Gr. 3 - 7.

A clear and accurate presentation of plant succession, stressing the slowness at which natural forces operate in transforming a pond to the climax community of a region. Detailed ink drawings amplify the text which describes how animals and the seeds of plants reach the pond, and how the dead remains of organisms help prepare the soil for the growth of a different group of plants. The pond becomes a marsh, the marsh becomes a swamp forest, and the trees whose seedlings can grow in shade eventually become the dominant plants in the forest.

Selsam, Millicent. See Through the Forest. Illus. by Winifred Lubell. Harper, 1956. $3.95. Gr. 3 - 6.

Young readers explore the forest (made analogous to a tall building) from its moist, dark, and cool basement to its dry, hot and airy top, discovering the tenants which are particularly adapted to the climate of their own floor. We learn the use of woodpeckers in controlling populations of woodboring beetles, of insect-eating birds in controlling the numbers of leaf-eating caterpillars, and of lady-bird beetles in preventing destructive plant lice from multiplying. Most importantly, we learn that every tenant of the forest, no matter his level, is affected by others in the total community.

Selsam, Millicent. See Through the Lake. Illus. by Winifred Lubell. Harper, 1958. $3.79. Gr. 3 - 6.

A lucid presentation of the interdependent life forms in the freshwater lake community. The readers accompany the author in collecting and observing the plants and animals found at various depths. Particular point is made of the lake's own cycle --bigger animals eating smaller ones which eat still smaller animals which depend on tiny plants. All these forms eventually die and are decomposed by bacteria, providing the minerals allowing more algae to grow. We learn also how the lake itself is interdependent with the land surrounding it.

Stephen, David and James Lockie. Nature's Way: A Look at the Web of Life. Illus. with photographs. McGraw, 1969. $4.95. Gr. 5 - up.

One strong point of this reference book is its introduction which presents a comprehensive definition of ecology: "a method of discovering facts ... the study of animals and plants, their relationships to each other and to their environment ... a way of looking at all other sciences ... an adventure." Soil represents the beginning (and end) of all terrestrial life and is logically the topic of the first chapter where it is treated more fully than most books of this nature. Ecosystems, population cycles, social behavior of wildlife, movement of species into new habitats, and man (as a part of all ecosystems) form the subjects of the remaining chapters. The numerous color photographs give the book its particular appeal.

Evolution and Adaptation

Aruego, Jose. Symbiosis: A Book of Unusual Friendships. Illus. Scribner, 1970. $3.95. Gr. 1 - 3.

A cheerful book, comically illustrated, about a very real and marvelous phenomenon, symbiosis, or the interdependent relationship between two living forms. If children take this presentation seriously at the same time they enjoy it, they are not likely to forget just how nine pairs of animals help each other out.

Atwood, Anne. The Wild Young Desert. Illus. Scribner, 1970. $4.95. Gr. 6 - Adult.

A photographic essay portraying stunningly the evolution of land surfaces by wind and water. Such phrases as "savage wind softens" and "warped with wildness" typify the poetic text, which conveys the power of natural forces in shaping the face of the earth. The sharp, colored photographs capture the patterns of changing land features at moments when the contrast between sunlit and shadowed surfaces are strongest. Another magnificent book by Ann Atwood is New Moon Cove.

Burton, Virginia Lee. Life Story: a Play in Five Acts. Illus. Houghton, 1962. $5.50. Gr. 3 - 6.

Dramatic devices such as illustrations framed by proscenium arches and placards announcing act and scene numbers are used to portray the evolution of the earth. Particularly commendable is the final synthesis, which shows the relationships of various types of living creatures to the endless chain of time.

Hotton, Nicholas III. The Evidence of Evolution. Published by American Heritage in association with the Smithsonian Institution; book trade and institutional distribution by Van Nostrand, 1968. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A magnificent, highly authoritative reference book, presenting the origin and evolution of life and the evidence for organic evolution. Not only fossil records provide evidence but also the "interaction of living individuals with each other and their environment." This comprehensive work closes with a discussion of man, whose questing mind permitted him to exploit his environment. Hotton reminds us that most of the problems we face today, such as overcrowding, are evolutionary in origin and that we have not learned to cope with our own cleverness. Illustrating the text are 135 paintings, photographs, diagrams, drawings, and charts, 40 of them in color.

Ravielli, Anthony. From Fins to Hands: An Adventure in Evolution. Illus. Viking, 1968. $3.00. Gr. 5 - 7.

While focusing on the modification of the forelimb from the lobe-finned fish (the first vertebrate to venture onto dry land) to the human primate, the author integrates the most salient aspects of vertebrate evolution. Among intriguing aspects is that the human hand, with its retention of the five-fingered primitive condition, is unspecialized and yet advanced --its increasing manipulatability throughout primate evolution permitting the development of the brain and human culture. The pen drawings are extremely graphic and include reconstructions of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals known only from fossils. Despite the picture book format, the complexity of the evolutionary principles involved suggest that this book would best be used with older readers.

Shuttlesworth, Dorothy. Animal Camouflage. Illus. by Matthe Kamenoff. Natural History, 1966. $3.95. Gr. 6 - 9.

A very informative book which describes the various kinds of camouflage animals have inherited to further increase the chance of their species' survival. A diagram shows how skin color changes, and many other beautiful and accurate illustrations, some in color, amplify the text.

Silverstein, Alvin and Virginia. A Star in the Sea. Illus. by Symeon Shimin. Warne, 1969. $3.95. Gr. 1 - 5.

The story of a starfish named Stella: her birth, development (fertilization and cell division are included), eating habits, peculiar adaptations, enemies, and reproduction. A point is made of the fact that starfish may produce millions of eggs and sperm since this ensures that at least some will be fertilized and escape the jaws of a fish. The illustrations are in vivid colors and are very attractive.

Simon, Hilda. Partners, Guests, and Parasites: Coexistence in Nature. Illus. Viking, 1970. $4.95. Gr. 6 - Adult.

Hilda Simon begins her book by pointing out that the "struggle for survival" according to the Darwinian theory, does not always involve violence and aggression among organisms, but that natural selection also favors cooperation between different species. Her book is about symbiosis. Its examples represent most of the classes of animals and describe the many different types of symbiotic relationships. The author's four-color drawings are equisite and exact in detail.

Man and His Environment

Belting, Natalia. The Earth is on a Fish's Back: Tales of Beginnings. Illus. by Esta Nesbitt. Holt, 1965. $3.50. Gr. 4 - 6.

One of the author's many books of legends, this one contains tales from all over the world which attempt to explain the origin of such things as the sun, the salty ocean, weaving, and fire. The characters in many of the tales are animals. For example, in "Why there is Both Day and Night," men did not yet exist. This collection should suggest to children what elements in the world peoples have considered puzzling and most vital to their existence.

Jablow, Alta and Carl Withers. The Man in the Moon: Sky Tales from Many Lands. Illus. by Peggy Wilson. Holt, 1969. $4.50. Gr. 4 - 6.

This folklore collection represents cosmographic tales told by men everywhere who have wondered as they gazed up at the heavens. In the afterword, the authors draw a contrast between the way in which the moon, sun, stars, and thunder are depicted in the oral literature (as "very lively actors" or as "objects interestingly or amusingly conceived") and the description of the moon's surface during the Apollo 11 flight ("stark and desolate"). Because of the development of Western science, we are not likely to have the same animated perceptions of celestial beings, but through these tales we can come to appreciate how imaginatively different peoples have described, and accounted for, sky phenomena.

Mendoza, George. The Hunter I Might Have Been. Photographs by DeWayne Dalrymple. Grosset, 1968. $3.59. Gr. 3- Adult.

A photographic essay of less than seventy-five words, simple but poignant, and conveying the sorrow, fear, conviction, wistfulness, and self-recognition of a young hunter who shot a sparrow. The full-page black-and-white photographs depict the mood stunningly.

Nyblom, Helena. The Witch in the Woods: Fairy Tales from Sweden. Trans. by Holger Lundbergh. Illus. by Nils Christian Hald. Knopf, 1968. $4.50. Gr. 3-6.

As in most fairy tales, the princes, princesses, kings, trolls, and witches playing roles in these stories are very human. Particularly noteworthy of Helena Nyblom's tales are that they take place in the countryside, and woven into them are such natural elements as spruce, elm, birch, linden, and lingonberries.

Reed, Gwendolyn ed. The Talkative Beasts: Myths, Fables, and Poems of India. Photographs by Stella Snead. Lothrop, 1969. $4.95. Gr. 3 - 7.

A very appealing book, containing a selection of Indian folk and fairy tales, poems, jatakas, proverbs, and myths about animals, which demonstrate the Hindu reverence for all life. Black and white photographs of sculptured beasts of India illuminate the large pages.

Picture Books

Beskow, Elsa. Children of the Forest. Illus. Adapted from the Swedish by William Jay Smith. Seymour Lawrence: Delacorte, 1965. $4.50. Gr. K - 3.

The squirrel-sized forest children and their parents are dependent on the mushroom for their existence: they wear red caps with white dots as protective coloration against enemies who mistake them for poisonous mushrooms; they find shelter under mushrooms during rainstorms; and they learn to recognize edible mushrooms which they eat year-round. The children frolic with frogs and squirrels and like other forest creatures, they gather berries and nuts for food and cotton grass for warmth. The lyrical verses tell of their days in the wild woods, but the exquisite illustrations tell more: in each the little people are integrated into the environment, as much a part of nature as the rabbits and owls.

Burton, Virginia Lee. The Little House. Illus. Houghton, 1942. $3.75. Gr. K - 3.

A picture book about a little house in the country which is encroached upon by all the elements of urbanization. One wonders at the end, when the little old house is moved out to the country again, whether this is a real solution. How long will it be before she is surrounded by buildings and busy streets again? The popular Mike Mulligan and His Steamshovel by the same author, represents the antithesis of The Little House for, as Margaret Heylman points out in "The Little House Syndrome vs. Mike Mulligan and Mary Ann" (see "additional bibliographies"), the problem of what to do with Mary Ann is solved resourcefully by incorporating her into the new town hall.

Carrick, Carol. Swamp Spring. Illus. by David Carrick. Macmillan, 1969. $4.50. K - 2.

From the time when "spring is frozen in the swamp," until the day "new life begins among the tangled roots," the reader follows the gradual transformation of the swamp as it is depicted in poetic prose and striking watercolor illustrations. As the snow and ice thaw, the ducks, beaver, snakes, frogs, rabbits, and owls stir from their nests and search for food. The skunk cabbage, marsh marigolds, reeds, plant scum, and trees all provide warmth, food, and cover for these creatures.

Caudill, Rebecca. A Pocketful of Crickets. Illus. by Evaline Ness. Holt, 1964. $3.50. Gr. K - 3.

It takes six-year-old Jay a long time to return home with the cows. His eyes scan the countryside --hills covered with woods and pasture; he walks forward in the soft, warm dust and then backward to look at his footprints in the dust; he watches a half-dozen small creatures and knocks a frost-smelling nut from a hickory tree; he finds a goose feather, an Indianhead, and wonderful white beans striped with red speckles; then he catches a cricket who becomes his friend and whom he learns to share with his classmates on his first day of school. This is a pastoral picture-book with a text emphasizing the senses. The illustrations are vigorous in red and gold, colors appropriate for the late summer setting.

Clymer, Eleanor. A Big Pile of Dirt. Illus. by Robert Shore. Holt, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 1 - 6.

The children could not have received a nicer "present" than the big pile of dirt dumped by mistake in the middle of an empty lot. Shooed from the stoops, furnace room, hallways, and roof tops of the broken-down tenements by adults, they find their "mountain" of "clean dirt" a sanctuary, offering a wealth of things to do. The children, and their parents, defend their need for the lot when the mayor and some ladies plan to clean it up, and even when the mayor has it converted into a fine park for them, the reader tends to share the nostalgia of Mike, the narrator, for the days when the lot was "the way it used to be," when everything about it was a result of their own activities and creativity. The illustrations, in brownstones, are very effective in transmitting the environment of a slum.

Fisher, Aileen. We Went Looking. Illus. by Marie Angel. Crowell, 1968. $3.95. Gr. K - 3.

Even if we did not find the badger we went looking for, we did see creatures no less significant. We almost passed by the caterpillar "looking just exactly like a twig," but did spot two dozen other small woodland creatures. The simple text is in pleasing rhyme and the softly-colored illustrations are effective.

Freschet, Bernice. The Old Bullfrog. Illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Scribner, 1968. $3.50. Gr. K - 3.

A smug-looking bullfrog, a hungry heron, and a host of other pond critters carry off the suspense of this simple survival story. The frog has lived many years because he is wise, the young reader learns. A teacher might use this picture book to point out that it was not just the bullfrog's concealed alertness that saved him from the heron's strike, but also his ability to spring instantly, his strong hind legs representing a special adaptation permitting the species' survival. The collage illustrations are very distinctive, having vibrant colors and texture.

Keith, Eros. A Small Lot. Illus. by the author. Bradbury, 1968. $4.25. PreS - 2.

Although the surface message of this picture book is not very original, the whimsical illustrations more than compensate for it. The wash drawings in bright pastels tell the story of two small boys who save a vacant lot for their own play by preventing the construction of a pet shop. An older reader might recognize the underlying message that children can be more content playing in the worlds of their imaginations (castles, jungles) than viewing pets, flowers, or toys in shops.

Lionni, Leo. Inch by Inch. Illus. by the author. Obolensky, 1960. $3.95. Gr. K - 3.

The prey outwits the predator in this graphical episode of an inchworm. The twigs, leaves, and flowers of plants and the feathers and beaks of birds are drawn in realistic colors and have a textured pattern reminiscent of silk-screening.

Miles, Miska. Nobody's Cat. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Atlantic-Little, 1969. $3.75. Gr. K - 3.

An animal in the city, belonging to no one in particular, faces dangers as great as those of an animal in the wilderness. This cat survives because he has adapted with prowess to the ways of man (knowing, for example, where and how to obtain food from humans) and to man's dogs and autos. The illustrations and descriptions of the cat, so tense and alert, are very realistic.

Piatti, Celestino. The Happy Owls. Atheneum, 1964. $4.95. Gr. K - 3.

A legend having overtones of ecology. It is the wise owls who appreciate and live in harmony with nature, who also live in harmony with each other --in contrast to the domestic barnyard fowl who are not aware of the different seasons' beauties and squabble when they are not sleeping, eating, or drinking. The pictures are magnificent, in bold, bright colors outlined with black.

Schoenherr, John. The Barn. Illus. Atlantic-Little, 1968. $3.50. Gr. PreS - 3.

A picture book with double-page black-and-white drawings and simple but intense text portraying the struggle for existence of an owl and a skunk. It is a time of drought and frogs, mice, eggs, and beetles are few. Although the hungry skunk is a predator himself, he becomes prey as the owl attempts to satisfy the hunger of her young ones.

Tresselt, Alvin. Rain Drop Splash. Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Lothrop, 1946. $3.50. PreS - 3.

A delightful book, its simple text beginning in the rhythm of the plunking rain drops and then flowing with the river to the sea when the rain stops. The attractive, unsophisticated pictures depict not only the wild creatures of the woods and streams, but also the farms, domestic animals, cities, factories, bridges, boats, and ships of man. The falling rain makes no distinction between the wild and tame and mingles freely everywhere.

Valens, Evans G. and Clement Hurd. Wildfire. Illus. by Clement Hurd. World, 1963. $3.95. K - 4.

A stunning story of an autumn forest fire told in strong, poetic images. The block-print illustrations are superb, depicting the multitudinous forest creatures fleeing in confusion from their homes, against a background of pulsing vegetation --the impressions of genuine ferns and leaves. The roaring flames destroy but do not quench all life, and the following spring, seeds sprout from the enriched forest floor. With the appearance of new green life, birds and animals return to the burn to feed.

Various Fictional Books

Ellis, Mel. Ironhead. Holt, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 5-9.

Set in the Florida Everglades, this is a story full of adventure and appeal for young outdoorsmen. The main character is Doug Doucette, a teenager who sets out to capture a huge rattlesnake. If sold, this enormous reptile would provide enough money to secure care for the boy's ailing father. The exciting descriptions of Doug's encounters with the wildlife and capricious elements in the swamp are the most distinguished qualities of the book by the 1961 Wisconsin Conservation Writer of the year.

Ellis, Mel. Sad Song of the Coyote. Holt, 1967. $2.95. Gr. 7 - 10.

The story of a boy's conflict --"the old ways against the new ways." Mark Trent, the son of a gamekeeper, understands why his father and farmers value only the dead coyote for its pelt and bounty, but he is drawn to the view of biologists and conservationists who believe that coyotes and other predators do more good than harm. He wrestles between his need to hunt coyotes for the money they bring for his education, and his growing sympathy with these rare animals with the mournful howl. The conflict is resolved gradually and realistically with retention of the well-developed characterizations.

Guillot, Rene. Grishka and the Bear. Trans. by Swen Marsh. Illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Criterion, 1960. $3.50. Gr. 3 - 7.

The story of a Siberian tribe who has an agreement with the black bears of the mountains to hunt them only during a certain season and only after a messenger has been sent to them reporting the date. Grishka, a courageous young boy, rescues, rears, and becomes a loyal friend of Djidi, a bear cub. When full-grown, Djidi does not understand why the men want to hurt him.

Holling, Holling Clancy. Tree in the Trail. Illus. Houghton, 1942. $4.95. Gr. 4 - 6.

A lone cottonwood grew near the watering place of buffalo on a low hill in the midst of the Kansas plains. Its twisted shape, ornaments, and imbedded arrowheads and silver slivers, told its story as a "companion to bird, beast, and man." During its lifetime it offered shelter and protection to Indians, Spanish warriors, and American traders, and witnessed the changing scene of the plains. The cottonwood's limbs seemed always to be beckoning towards the West and finally, before the plains were criss-crossed with fences and dotted with farms, it did travel beyond the hill, carrying with it, peace. Other beautiful books by this author having ecological overtones are Paddle-to-the-Sea, Minn of the Mississippi, and Seabird.

Holman, Felice. The Blackmail Machine. Illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Macmillan, 1968. $4.50. Gr. 3 - 7.

A clever, bubbly, but pointed story about five children and a Miss Shrubb who take advantage of their air-borne situation (in a propellor-driven treehouse) to force the unsensible and trifling grownups to change their ways. Their first demand is to save the tidal marsh (where Miss Shrubb dwells among its wild inhabitants) from the mayor who has schemed to drain and junk-fill it for a race track; it is met only when the townspeople realize that, among other equally selfish reasons, the birds which depend on the marsh for shelter and food, eat the insects which would otherwise destroy their crops. The other demands, for world peace and less apathy, are curiously similar to those of older students who in real life, are trying to gain some influence in governmental policies.

Hunt, Irene. Trail of Apple Blossoms. Illus. by Don Bolognese. Follett, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 8.

A beautifully-written story using the American folk hero Johnny Appleseed to convey the philosophies of working with nature and reverence for life. Besides caring for apple trees and distributing seeds, Johnny Chapman cured sickness with wholesome food, healed wounds with herbs, and by walking fearlessly and unarmed, befriended Indians and wild animals.

Lawson, Robert. Rabbit Hill. Illus. Viking, 1944. $3.50. Gr. 4 - 6.

The "New Folks" finally arrive at the long-empty house and ultimately dispell the fears of the animals dependent on the vegetation surrounding it, that the people will be unsympathetic with the needs of wild creatures. Indeed, the animals learn that the man and the lady are perfect co-inhabitants --"real sensible, knowledgeable Folks ... quiet-like and friendly," and providers of "enough (food) for all." The scene inside the front and back covers is a perfect example of good land management --the hedgerows, shrubs, and trees attracting a diversity of wildlife. The other drawings are incredibly realistic and striking in detail, and as for the text, it's all charm and warm humor.

Montgomery, Rutherford. Kildee House. Illus. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1949. $3.50. Gr. 4 - 6. (Paperback: Archway, 1968. $.50).

Jerome Kildee learns how to talk to and care for other people after he has retired into a redwood forest and been accepted by the skunks and raccoons sharing his home at the foot of a massive tree. Jerome adapts himself and his house to the animals (numbering 52 by the time a solution is found) and although they take advantage of him, he neither withholds his services from them nor claims ownership of them. The animals also provide the core around which friendships grow between Jerome and Emmy Lou and eventually between Emmy Lou and Donald. These three plus Ben Eppy and the game warden have individual wildlife ethics for the reader to identify.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnen. The Secret River. Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Scribner, 1955. $2.97. Gr. 1 - 4.

Hard times have come to the forest in which Calpurnia lives. The little poetess is concerned, and she finds her way to the secret river with her dog where she catches enough catfish to bring soft times to the forest people. Never again does she find the river. Is it real? We may believe whatever we like. Almost all of us have come upon some magical place so beautiful and perfect it seems unreal. This book suggests that it's not easy to separate reality from imagination.

Smith, Agnes. An Edge of the Forest. Illus. by Roberta Moynihan. Viking, 1959. $3.37. Gr. 7 - Adult.

An unusual and hauntingly beautiful story of a small black lamb who brings new things to "The Young Woods." Predator ceases to harm prey for the sake of the lamb. Love and security is only briefly interrupted by fear and death. The realm of the leopards, owls, deer, and mice includes grasslands, swamps, and both young and old forests. The plant communities of each are described graphically so that the reader gains a sense of the importance of green plants for food and cover. A shepherd and his family live near the edge of the forest and although they are tied to the woods psychologically through their love of the black lamb, there is little understanding between the humans and the forest animals.

Thompson, George Selden. Tucker's Countryside. By George Selden, pseud. Illus. by Garth Williams. Farrar, Straus, 1969. $3.95. Gr. 7 - 9.

A winsome book about Tucker Mouse, Henry Cat, Chester Cricket, Henry and Emily Chipmunk, Simon Turtle, and "various rabbits and sundry fieldmice" who prevent their Old Meadow from being drained and their homes replaced by a tall, brick and concrete apartment building. It is Tucker who finally hits on the plan ("I got it!" he cried as he jumped three feet straight up), a plan which involves lying, burglary and forgery (to Chester's dismay) but which they prefer to call "benign deception" since it is "for everybody's good, including the good of human beings who don't have brains enough to leave nice meadows alone." A good book to read aloud to primary age children (unless one does not believe the end justifies the means).

Turkle, Brinton. Fiddler on High Lonesome. Illus. Viking, 1968. $3.50. Gr. 2 - 4.

In contrast to the sour Fogel brothers, scoundrels who carry guns and kill "varmits" for the fun of it, their small orphaned cousin, Bochamp, plays his fiddle for the forest critters; bears, skunks, and even a panther dance in the moonlight to his tune. But the response of Hunk, Deet, and Sud to this sight tells Bochamp that he "ain't no kin of yourn."

White, E.B. Stuart Little. Illus. by Garth Williams. Harper, 1945. $3.95. Gr. K - Adult. (Paperback: Dell, 1967. $.75).

The charming story of a gentleman-mouse who leaves his parents, the Littles, to head north in search of a bird named Margalo. In contrast to the city he left (New York), he comes upon a town "where the houses were white and high and the elm trees were green and higher than the houses, where the front yards were wide and pleasant and the back yards were bushy and worth finding out about, where the streets sloped down to the stream and the stream flowed quietly under the bridge, where the lawns ended in orchards and the fields ended in pastures, and the pastures climbed the hill ..." A telephone man directs Stuart north into an area of "swamps where cedars grow and turtles wait on logs but not for anything in particular ... pastures rank with ferns and junipers ... spruce woods ... fresh lakes undisturbed except by fish and hawks and of course, by the Telephone Company." Stuart feels it's the right direction for him and maybe it is for all of us --if such lands still exist.

White, E.B. The Trumpet of the Swan. Pictures by Edward Frascino. Harper, 1970. $4.11. Gr. 4 - 6.

Louis, a trumpeter swan, is born mute. Unable to court a lovely swan, Serena, he solves his problems by learning to play a trumpet. This is a memorable book, full of humor and truth; and because of its focus, there is much to intrigue anyone with an interest in nature or conservation.

Survival Books

Carpenter, Edmund, ed. The Story of Comock the Eskimo. As told to Robert Flaherty. Illus. Simon & Schuster, 1968. $4.50. Gr. 5 - Adult.

A true story told to Robert Flaherty in north-eastern Quebec in 1912 when Comock and his family arrive from an island where they had been living for ten years. Forced by starvation to move to better hunting grounds, a break in the ice had separated Comock from part of his family and most of his supplies. From the terse, lucid text and stark sketches, portraying tiny Eskimo figures in vast fields of white, the reader gains a strong impression of the Eskimo's world view, dependence on wildlife, and resourcefulness.

Cleaver, Vera and Bill. Where the Lilies Bloom. Illus. by Jim Spanfeller. Lippincott, 1969. $3.50. Gr. 6 - 9.

The local color of Appalachia brings sparkle to this warm, touching story. The main character is Mary Call, a resourceful and intelligent young lady who keeps her orphaned family together. One particularly fascinating device for their survival is the practice of wildcrafting, the harvesting of wild buds, leaves, and bark for medicinal use.

Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe. Illus. by N.C. Wyeth. Scribner, 1957. $6.00. Gr. 6 - Adult.

A classical story of survival.

Ellis, Mel. Flight of the White Wolf. Holt, 1970. $3.97. Gr. 6 - 8.

Branded as a dangerous killer after slaying a valuable boxer that had taunted him, Gray, a white wolf, is led to safety by a boy that had raised him from the time that he was a pup. Set in Wisconsin and filled with details on the wildlife of the state, this is an enthralling tale of the duo's survival as they strive to reach a Wildlife Reserve upstate.

George, Jean Craighead. My Side of the Mountain. Dutton, 1959. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 6.

What boy, or girl, has not dreamed of living inside of a tree? This first person account relates the year-long adventures of a boy from New York City who leaves his family and his dependency on electricity and machines to live off the land in a Hemlock forest of the Catskill Mountains. At first he wonders how primitive man ever had enough time and energy for more than hunting food; later he becomes exhilarated over his self-sufficiency, but his longings to exchange words with humans become more frequent.

Miles, Miska. Hoagie's Rifle Gun. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Atlantic: Little, 1970. $3.50. Gr. 1 - 3.

When eleven year old Hoagie stalks a rabbit to help to feed his family, his prey is taken from him by a bobcat, who is also hungry. Parallels in the struggle for survival between the poor Appalachian family and the wily animal are sharply delineated in the black and white illustrations.

O'Dell, Scott. Island of the Blue Dolphins. Houghton, 1960. $3.50. Gr. 7 - up.

A fictionalized story of an Indian girl who actually lived eighteen years alone on a Pacific Island. She not only learned to use all the parts of animals and plants for food, shelter, tools, clothing, baskets and canoes, but in making friends with animals she once killed, she also learned that "animals and birds are like people, too."

Sperry, Armstrong. Call It Courage. Macmillan, 1940. $3.50. Gr. 4 - 6.

A 1941 Newbery Medal winner, this Polynesian legend forcefully relates the struggles of a boy who conquers his fear of the sea.

Taylor, Theodore. The Cay. Doubleday, 1969. $3.50. Gr. 6 - 9.

A first-person narrative, very convincing in its characterization of an American boy who overcomes his social prejudices, self-centeredness, and dependency when he is forced to share a tiny Caribbean island with a wise, black seaman. Blinded from a blow on his head when their ship was torpedoed and sunk, the boy becomes resentful and hostile. Midway through the book, the boy speaks his mind, and this becomes the turning point in his attitude toward the old man.

Biography

Douglas, William O. Muir of the Mountains. Illus. by Harve Stein. Houghton, 1961. $2.95. Gr. 7 - 11.

A sympathetic biography of the 19th century conservationist John Muir, who stopped farming (a lucrative but monotonous occupation to him) so that he could wander in his beloved mountains, woods, and meadows, and then write books relating what the wilderness means to man. The preservation of many giant sequoias in California is among results of his eloquent pleas. Douglas includes many quotations from Muir's writings which convey his reverence for every flower, tree, and bird, and his conviction that man's job is to protect, not destroy, all other living things.

North, Sterling. Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Dutton, 1963. Gr. 5 - Adult. (Paperback: Camelot-Avon, 1969. $.75.).

The author recalls his year-long companionship with a wonderfully affectionate raccoon. As a twelve-year-old boy at the end of the first world war, Sterling makes a "peace treaty" with all wild animals which he had previously trapped for their furs. Children and adults from Wisconsin will especially appreciate his reflective descriptions of the hills and woods he explored near Lake Koshkonong in southern Wisconsin and also the Brule River in the northwest part of the state. North has written a shortened and simplified version of this book called Little Rascal, with numerous, fine drawings by Carl Burger.

North, Sterling. The Wolfling: A Documentary Novel of the Eighteen-Seventies. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Dutton, 1969. $5.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A stirring, documentary novel depicting life in southern Wisconsin one hundred years ago when house-raisings and wolf hunts were welcome diversions, and a boy had to "buy time" from his father to go fishing. The book's authenticity is manifest in the documentary notes. The author's father, David Willard North (1862-1962), is a prototype of Robbie Trent, the boy in the story who takes the wolfling from a den and raises it. Without this book Robbie's intriguing neighbor, Thure Kumlien, might only be known to those whose ancestors lived near Lake Koshkonong and told of the Swedish naturalist's profound knowledge of wildlife and retiring life style. Sterling North brings him alive as he does the other Wisconsin pioneers who experienced the Civil War, Chicago Fire, and Panic of 1873.

Sterling, Phillip. Sea and Earth: The Life of Rachel Carson. Crowell, 1970. $4.50. Gr. 7 - up.

A well-written account of the life of the woman who wrote the controversial Silent Spring and widely-read books about the sea. The author stresses her literary as well as scientific interests. In tracing the source and background of her environmental concern, he describes the social, economic, political, and ecological climate in which she lived.

Appreciation

Clark, Ann Nolan. Along Sandy Trails. Photographs by Alfred A. Cohn. Viking, 1969. $4.95. Gr. 3 - 6.

An unusual presentation told in the poetic diction of the Papago Indian and illustrated by superb color photographs. A Papago grandmother and her granddaughter walk along a path in a southwestern desert and talk about the wildlife they see. The little girl learns that the giant cactus not only supplies them with luscious fruit and rain water (stored in its trunk), but when dead can be used to make house walls and fences. To one of her granddaughter's questions the old woman replies, "There are some things no one knows."

Lewis, Richard, ed. In a Spring Garden. Illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Dial, 1965. $4.50. Gr. 4 - up.

Haiku poems characterized by simplicity, intensity, and fresh beauty accompanied by striking illustrations in color and collage. Small, lake-side critters are the subjects of most of the poems and are pictured in their natural habitats against a sky of varying moods. As a whole, the poems and illustrations depict the course of a summer day, climaxed by a thunderstorm.

Lewis, Richard, ed. Out of the Earth I Sing: Poetry and Songs of Primitive Peoples of the World. Norton, 1968. $4.95. Gr. 4 - Adult.

The poems, chants, and prayers collected into this anthology sing of nature, birth, death, and love. They are derived from primitive peoples in all parts of the world and reflect the continuity in time and space of certain human themes. The strength of the songs and poems is in their simplicity and directness. These are strikingly complemented by black and white reproductions of primitive art.

North, Sterling. Hurry Spring! Illus. by Carl Burger. Dutton, 1966. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 6.

A beautifully-written book in which the author's deep appreciation for the natural world penetrates quietly. His anecdotes, though lyrical in style, present intriguing information about animals awakening from hibernation, and about other spring happenings.

Reed, Gwendolyn, ed. Bird Songs. Illus. by Gabriele Margules. Atheneum, 1969. $4.25. Gr. 2 - 7.

Poems-to-delight, about very familiar birds. The eighty-one pieces, by such masters as Longfellow, Keats, Frost, Sandburg, Dickinson, and less well-known poets, are accompanied by cheerful drawings and are arranged in such a way as to let the pages "breathe."

Rounds, Glen. Rain in the Woods and Other Small Matters. World, 1964. $3.00. Gr. 4 - 6.

A fine book to read aloud to children before setting out on a field trip to a woods or pond. From it we may learn to consider very small creatures from a different point of view. They abound in our surroundings (under our feet!), usually unnoticed by those of us who expect to see and hear only big animals when we are out walking. Large, fierce predators which we read about, fascinate us, but a myriad of creatures, tiny but no less wild or ferocious, exist right in our neighborhood's vacant lot or in any stagnant water. To see them we must squat low on the ground and, like the author, wait patiently. Rounds' graphic descriptions convey his ability to not only observe details but also to see the humorous and human aspects of animal behavior. His marginal pen-and-ink drawings have a touch of the pixie in them.

Skrebitski, G.A. In the Forest and On the Marsh. Trans. by Anne Terry White. Illus. Braziller. $3.95. Gr. 6-9.

The writer of this collection of anecdotes is a hunter who conveys not only his joy in stalking prey but also his sensitivity to the beauty and spirit of the animals he kills. He hunts rabbits, bear, blackcocks, and ducks in the Russian forests and marshes, but always with discretion, often bringing home and caring for as many animals as he shoots. His accounts are colorful and reflect the character of the Russian people with whom he shared many of his experiences. A good book to read aloud and to stimulate a discussion of why restricted hunting is sometimes beneficial to wildlife populations.

Natural Resources

Baker, Laura Nelson. A Tree Called Moses. Illus. by Penelope Naylor. Atheneum, 1966. $3.50. Gr. 2-4.

The story of a giant sequoia which began its life one spring 2500 years ago from a seed, cached and forgotten over the winter by a squirrel. Surviving one threat to its life after another and winning competition with other plants for nutrients, sunlight, and space, the Moses tree continues to grow. It witnesses predatory activities of grey wolves and mountain lion as a young tree, and 2000 years later the destructive activities of lumber-hungry white men. Fire, forcefully depicted as a starving licking beast, is the tree's greatest enemy and also man's, since he is dependent on the forest as a watershed. Children could represent the life of Moses on a mural-size graph, the axes showing time and tree height.

Ellis, Mel. Wild Goose, Brother Goose. Holt, 1969. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A reader of this book will never watch a flock of geese flying in V-formation, or listen to that "clear fluting from the sky," without thinking of Duke, the undaunted Canada gander who weathered every conceivable storm and remained a determined widower after his pinioned mate was struck dead by a dog. Hunters, traps, tornadoes, starvation all leave their marks on Duke's body and toughen his spirit. Much can be learned of geese behavior but enough questions remain to leave the reader marveling: Why didn't Duke later mate with the wounded goose he escorted over ice and snow to the farm where his first mate died? The author writes as if he were actually observing Duke over the two year period, without being anthropomorphic. Wisconsinites will especially appreciate this book since it describes the towns, cities, marshes, lakes, and rivers of this state from bird's eye view. But it also depicts the change man has wrought on the land. Duke looks down on "poison clouds marking cities ... a clutter. No plan, nor any pattern. Houses strewn like hail stones. Roads wrapping around onto themselves. No world of his, nor of any wild thing."

Graham, Ada and Frank. Wildlife Rescue: Alternative to Extinction. Illus. with photographs. $4.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

A very welcome book for its focus on some happy outcomes of conservation efforts, complementing those books portraying man as the villain of wildlife extinction. The authors describe the authentic experiences of four individuals who were independently responsible for the rescue of wild creatures in the United States and the rest of the world. Many direct quotations of these persons bring an immediacy to their accomplishments.

Gray, Robert. Children of the Ark: The Rescue of the World's Vanishing Wildlife. Norton, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 7.

Many conservation books focus on the extinction of wildlife species in America, beginning when European settlers cleared forests, plowed prairies, drained and filled swamps and marshes, and dammed rivers. But this book is about other intriguing creatures from England, South Africa, India, Mongolia, Australia, and the Arctic, as well as creatures native to America. Many became endangered species beginning 8,000 years ago when man first began farming land. As the author states, "The animals have no nationality ... They belong to the entire world." He emphasizes mammals but gives examples of birds and reptiles which were saved and are now being protected in game reserves, national parks, and zoos. In the discussion of each species, Gray isolates one female, gives her a name, and describes the birth and growth of her young, thereby incorporating information about the natural history of the species. The descriptions are clear, simple and graphic, and the photographs accompanying each are superb.

Hallin, Emily W. Moya and the Flamingoes. Illus. by Rus Anderson. McKay, 1969. $3.50. Gr. 4 - 6.

A captivating story with good plot strengthened by a portrayal of an African tribe's culture and of flamingoes nesting on a Rift Valley Lake. The young Kenya boy Moya saves the son of an American ornithologist who collapsed from exposure on the salt crusts bordering the secret lake where he went in search of flamingoes. Although Moya experiences grave fears in tampering with the firebirds, his clan's totem, these are overcome as he cures Peter and makes him a blood brother. The tribe elders announce that his stealing of medicine is justified, and Peter's father and a ranger proclaim the lake a sanctuary.

Hurd, Edith Thacher. The Blue Heron Tree. Illus. by Clement Hurd. Viking, 1968. $3.95. Gr. 2 - 5.

This book is the result of three years of observing water fowl and shorebirds at a lagoon in a redwood canyon north of San Francisco. Replenished by ocean tides full of plankton, the lagoon is one of the few feeding and nesting grounds of herons and egrets. Underlying the beauty of the text and illustrations is a plea for the blue heron's continued survival.

Hutchins, Ross Elliott. The Last Trumpeters. Illus. by Jerome Connolly. Rand McNally. $3.50. Gr. 2 - 5.

A muskrat snaps up one of six "eygnets," the young offspring of a pair of Trumpeter Swans; that is the "way of the wild." But the way of the trappers and hunters who followed Columbus to North America almost brought these snow-white swans to extinction. Before it was too late, man did provide a refuge for them and flocks of the trumpeters have since increased. There have been no "Last Trumpeters" but they no longer migrate along their "flyway" between the Arctic and the Gulf of Mexico. This information is included in the form of a clearly-written story about a family of swans and in a special section at the back. Beautiful bright pastel illustrations fill every page.

Lathrop, Dorothy P. Let Them Live. Macmillan, 1954. $3.95. Gr. 4 - 6.

A book stressing the interdependence between all living things and the contribution each creature makes in the total environment. Often man has overkilled certain animal populations only to create other, unforeseen and usually worse, problems. Although she published the book in 1954, the author brings forth issues of which the public is only now becoming aware.

Laycock, George. America's Endangered Wildlife. Illus. with photographs. Norton, 1968. $4.95. Gr. 5 - 9.

On the first page of this wildlife conservation book, the author tells us the important fact that extinction is not new to the world. "But whereas in the past the number of new species which appeared was the same as the number which disappeared, the rate at which species have become extinct has doubled in the last two hundred years." Before presenting some of the dismal facts about the loss due to man, of various animals and birds, he describes the unique characteristics of individual creatures. In this way the reader comes to appreciate how great a loss their extinction really is. The volume ends with a more optimistic chapter entitled "New Hope for Others," an appendix containing a roster of rare and endangered species, a list of organizations concerned with endangered wildlife, and an index.

McClung, Robert M. Lost Wild America; the Story of Our Extinct and Vanishing Wildlife. Illus. by Bob Hines. Morrow, 1969. $5.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.

With infinite attention to detail, this selection documents man's destruction of the wild animals around him. Initially, the book considers the creatures now virtually extinct. The second half of the text describes possible victims of the future. Through the detailed text, the reader is able to find information on many obscure creatures such as the sea mink or California parakeet. The numerous illustrations, the extensive bibliography, and the lucidity of the writing style add to the reference value of this handsome volume.

McCoy, Joseph. The Hunt for the Whooping Cranes: A Natural History Detective Story. Illus. by Rey Abruzzi. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 1966. $4.95. Gr. 6 - 10.

A book which is remarkable as a work of suspenseful, story-like non-fiction incorporating elements of natural history and conservation. It relates the eleven-year search in the Canadian wilderness for the only remaining small band of whooping cranes by a team of American and Canadian conservationists. It also includes an historical view of the great birds and scientific information on its habits. The author closes with questions as to the crane's future. Accompanying the text are decorative pen-and-ink drawings, photographs, maps and a bibliography.

Pringle, Laurence. The Only Earth We Have. Illus. with photographs. Macmillan, 1969. $4.50. Gr. 4 - 8.

A clear, compact book which explains how our air, water, soils, and wildlife have become polluted. Comparing the earth to a spaceship, the author emphasizes the fact that our planet has finite space and natural resources. He also reminds us that conservation is concerned not only with preventing forest fires and soil erosion but with the "quality of life for all people, now and in the future;" and we must "be prepared to pay the cost of conservation." Finally, Pringle offers suggestions as to what we can contribute to the conservation movement, asking that we look at old problems in new ways. Photographs, diagrams, a list of conservation groups, a glossary, and an index accompany the text.

Van Dersal, William R. The Land Renewed: The Story of Soil Conservation. Walck, 1968. $6.00. Gr. 7 - 9.

Every important aspect of soil conservation is treated clearly, concisely, and accurately in this revised and expanded edition. The format is also pleasing, each page-long discussion of a topic accompanied by an appropriate full-page photograph. The author has also updated Wildlife for America: The Story of Wildlife Conservation, an excellent coverage of the subject and essentially identical in text style and format to The Land Renewed.

Materials for Adults

A Sampling of Additional Bibliographies

Books about the Environment for Children. Madison Public Library, Madison, Wisconsin, 1970.

Engleson, David C. "The Environment of Earth." Wisconsin Library Bulletin, July-August, 1970, Vol. 66, No. 4, Pp. 245-254.

Heylman, Katherine M. "The Little House Syndrome vs. Mike Mulligan and Mary Anne." School Library Journal, April, 1970, Vol. 16, No. 8, Pp. 44-50.

Selected Books for Background Reading

There are many current books attempting to explain the ecological dilemma, but the following selections are the standard sources of many of the ideas presented:

Brown, Harrison. The Challenge of Man's Future. Viking, 1954. $5.00. (Paperback: Comp. Viking. $1.65).

Carson, Rachel L. The Sea Around Us. Rev. ed. Oxford, 1961. $6.50.

Odum, E.P. and H.T. Fundamentals of Ecology. 2nd ed. Saunders, 1959. $8.50.

Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There. Oxford, 1968. (Paperback $1.75).

Storer, John H. The Web of Life. Devin, 1954. $4.50. (Paperback: Signet, 1966. $.95).

Thoreau, Henry David. Walden. Ed. by Edwin W. Teale. Dodd, 1955. $4.50.

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